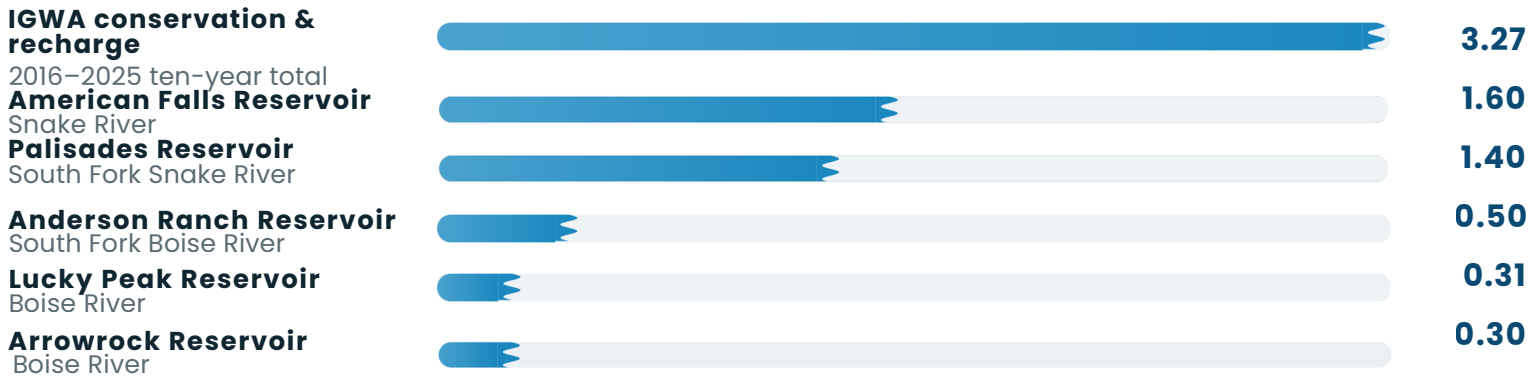


How Much Water Is 3.27 Million Acre-Feet?

A decade of IGWA conservation and recharge, measured against the reservoirs Idahoans already know

TOTAL STORAGE CAPACITY, MILLION ACRE-FEET



~IGWA's ten-year total is roughly equal to **Palisades, American Falls and Lucky Peak** reservoirs filled to capacity — all at the same time.

Two full years of irrigation supply

IRRIGATED ANNUALLY

~1M

acres farmed by IGWA members

ANNUAL WATER USE

~1.6 MAF

to grow a full Idaho crop year

WHAT 3.27 MAF EQUALS

2 years

of that entire supply, saved and returned to the aquifer

Farming on less water than the crops ask for

acre-feet applied per acre

1.75

AF / ACRE



2.0–2.5

AF / ACRE



What ESPA ground water users may apply

Average allocation per irrigated acre under the settlement agreement — a hard ceiling, not a target.

What Idaho's major crops typically need

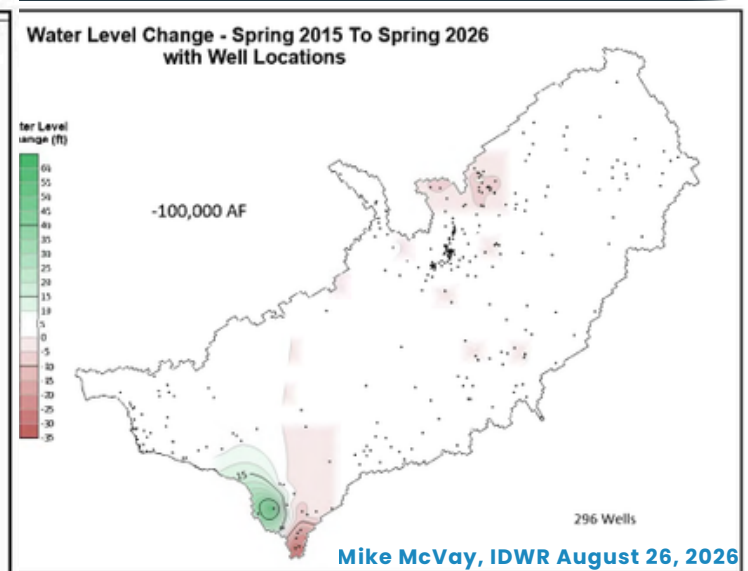
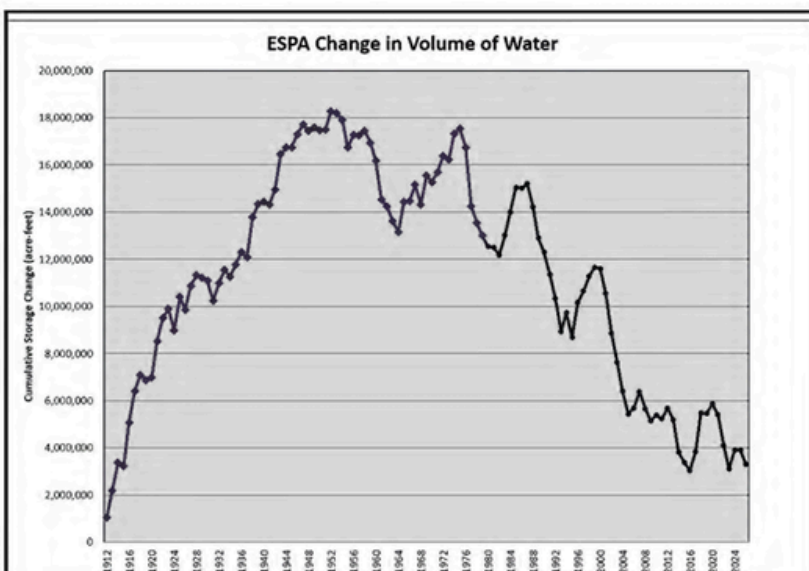
Potatoes, sugar beets, hay and corn — the crops that anchor Idaho's agricultural economy.

Reservoir capacities are total storage volumes for Palisades, American Falls, Anderson Ranch, Lucky Peak and Arrowrock. IGWA figures are annual member-district totals for diversion reduction and accomplished recharge, 2016–2025.

One acre-foot ≈ 325,851 gallons — enough water to cover one acre one foot deep. MAF = million acre-feet.

TENS OF MILLIONS OF PRIVATE DOLLARS invested into mitigation projects
\$30M IN STATE FUNDING for water conservation

What we're doing is working: The aquifer is on a path to STABILIZATION



Mike McVay, IDWR August 26, 2026

Severe Drought Events Are Still a Problem

During severe drought periods, surface water supplies are insufficient to meet water demand.

Idaho's Prior Appropriation Doctrine rests on two bedrock principles:

1 • PRIORITY

Priority protects water rights.
"First in time, first in right."

2 • PUBLIC INTEREST

The public interest ensures those rights are administered in a manner that maximizes beneficial use for the benefit of Idaho and its citizens.

The question is not whether senior water rights will be protected, but how. Idaho's prior appropriation doctrine requires both protection of senior priorities and efficient management of the State's water resources. Accordingly, water administration should seek to satisfy the needs of senior water users in a manner that keeps as many acres of farmland in production and as many businesses in operation as possible. Priority and public interest are not competing doctrines; they are complementary principles that work together to guide the management of Idaho's water resources.

- **This is a statewide water challenge — not a fight between water users.** Farmers, cities, businesses, and communities all depend on the same water supply. We need to work together to find solutions that will protect our food, economy and livelihoods.
- **Curtailment is the least effective and most harmful management tool**, with economic fallout that ripples through Idaho's economy. It is in the best interests of Idaho to invest in alternative strategies designed to meet the water needs of senior users in a way that keeps as many acres of farmland in production, and as many businesses in operation, as possible.
- **Every water user has a responsibility to improve efficiency.** Groundwater and surface-water users alike must pursue conservation, better measurement, and reduced losses.
- **Our storage system is inadequate** to meet modern water demands and climate conditions.

The Cost of Curtailment

DRIED UP FARMLAND
695,610

acre-feet

GROUNDWATER CURTAILED
1,652,035

acre-feet

2024 totals, SE Idaho counties

SURFACE WATER GAINED
73,229

acre-feet

Surface water gained represents gains to the Near Blackfoot-to-Minidoka reach of the Snake River, calculated using ESPAM 2.2 transient-state analysis. Data is based on the Final Order Regarding April 2024 Forecast Supply.

The Solution Involves Continued Collaboration

- **Continue groundwater conservation and recharge to maintain the health and stability of the aquifer.**
- **Increase storage water capacity, starting with existing reservoirs.**
- **Invest in technology to make surface water canals more drought-resilient.**
- **Continue IWRRI research to improve our understanding of the connection between the ESPA and the Snake River.**
- **Develop an emergency drought response plan to address severe drought conditions.**